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***Manner: SUICIDE***

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Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries with evidence of intent to end one's life. Evidence of intent includes an explicit expression, such as a suicide note or verbal threat, or an act constituting implicit intent, such as deliberately placing a gun to one's head or rigging a vehicle's exhaust. In 2003 in King County, there were 217 suicides, accounting for 12% (217/1,815) of the deaths investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Forty-seven percent (101/217) of the 2003 suicidal deaths resulted from the use of firearms. The number of gunshot suicides (101) in 2003 is an increase from 98 in 2002 and 85 gunshot suicides in 2001. Hanging accounted for 17% (36/217) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 5% (11/217). Drugs and poisons accounted for 15.7% (34/217) of all suicides while carbon monoxide caused death in 5.1% (11/217) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons."

Blood alcohol tests were performed in 94% (203/217) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 31% (63/203) of cases tested.

Suicides in the age group sixty years and older, represented 20% (43/217) of all suicides in 2003.

Firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for all age groups in 2003.

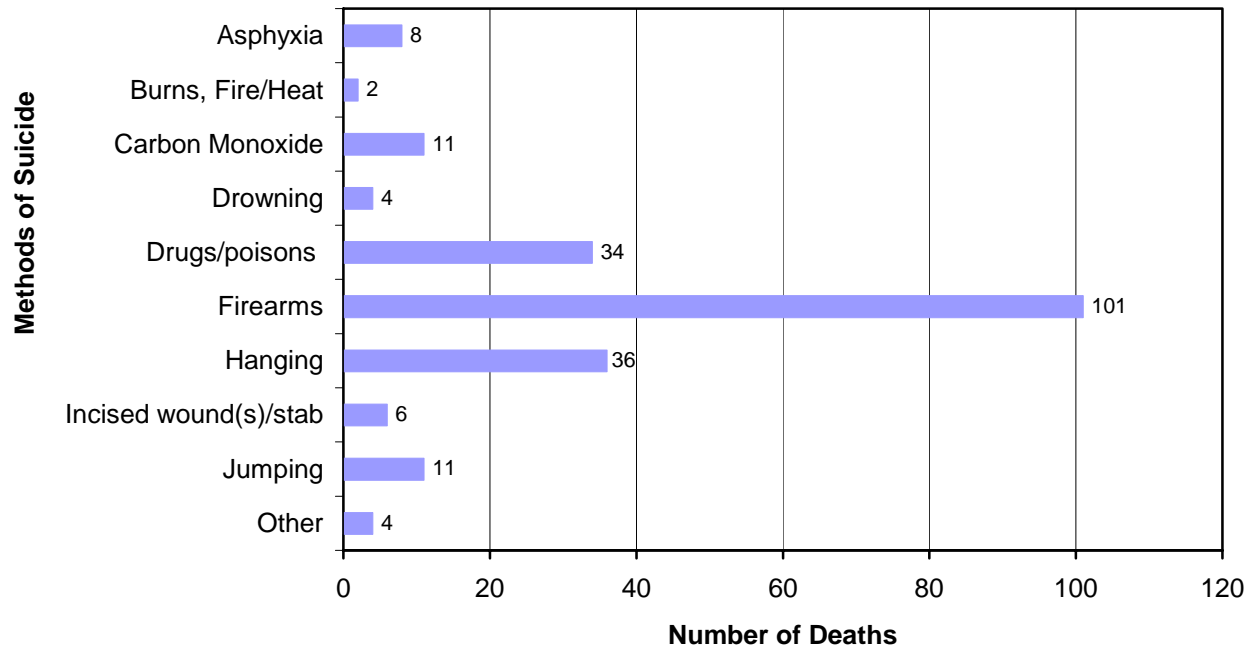
In 2003 there were only 4 deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by adults 60 years of age and over. In 2003, there was one suicide attributed to drugs and/or poisons among youths 19 years and younger.

In 2003 there were 14 suicides among persons 19 years and younger (6.5% of all suicides), which is an increase compared to 9 suicides among this age group in 2002. Hanging was the primary method of death (43%, 6/14) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger.

Graph 6-1

## Suicide Injury Methods in

2003

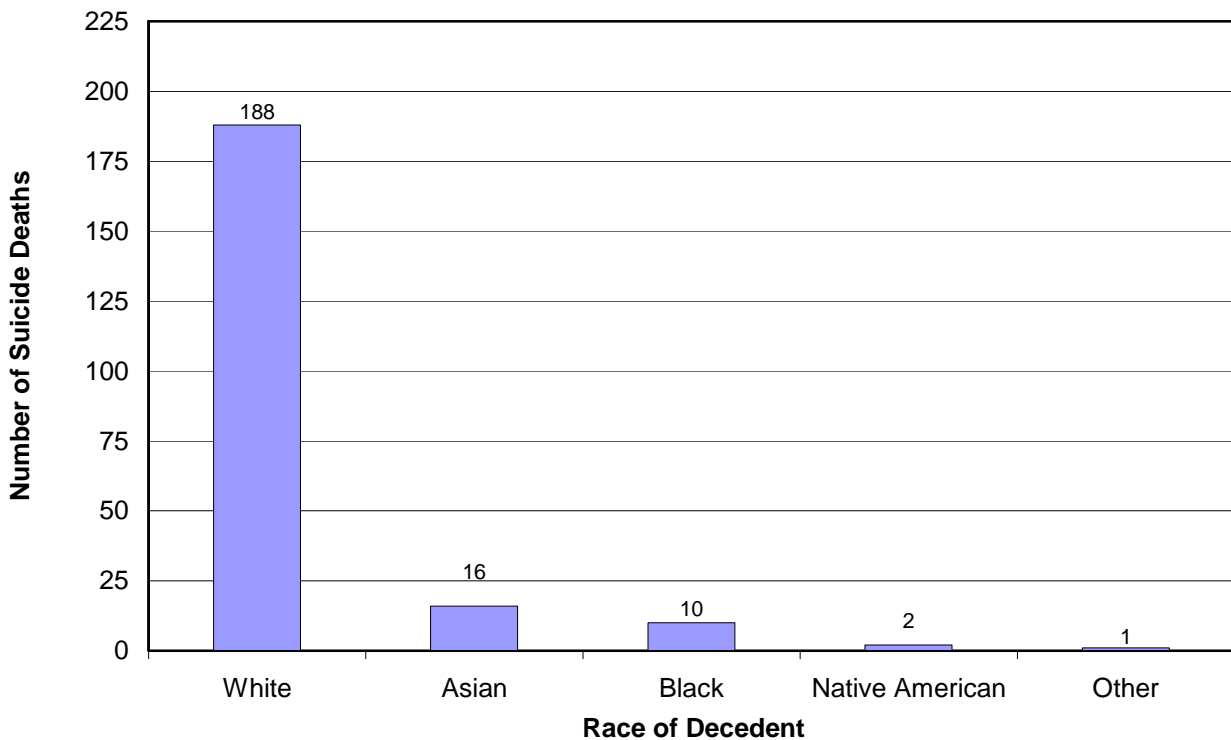


**Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods and Race of the Decedent**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHE R		
Asphyxia	8	0	0	0	0		8
<i>Male</i>	6	0	0	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	2	0	0	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	10	0	1	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	9	0	0	0	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Drowning	2	1	1	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	1	1	1	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	30	1	2	1	0		34
<i>Male</i>	16	1	2	0	0	19	
<i>Female</i>	14	0	0	1	0	15	
Firearms	89	6	4	1	1		101
<i>Male</i>	75	4	2	1	1	83	
<i>Female</i>	14	2	2	0	0	18	
Hanging	30	0	6	0	0		36
<i>Male</i>	25	0	3	0	0	28	
<i>Female</i>	5	0	3	0	0	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	5	1	0	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	4	1	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	8	1	2	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	3	0	1	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	5	1	1	0	0	7	
Other	4	0	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>217</b>
Percent	87%	5%	7%	1%	0%		

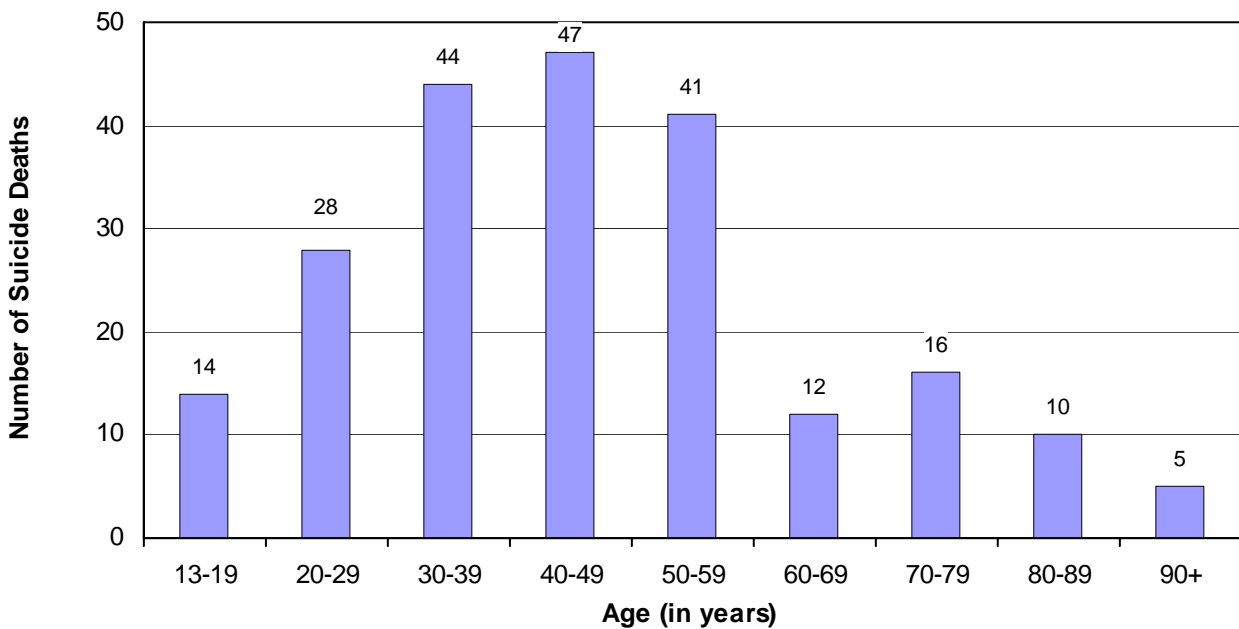
Graph 6-2

## Suicidal Deaths and Race of the Decedent



Graph 6-3

## Suicidal Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent



**Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods and Age Group of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)									SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	13 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +		
Asphyxia	0	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	1		8
Male	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	6	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	0	1	3	0	4	0	1	2	0		11
Male	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	0	9	
Female	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Drowning	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		4
Male	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	1	3	8	9	9	1	1	0	2		34
Male	0	2	6	4	6	1	0	0	0	19	
Female	1	1	2	5	3	0	1	0	2	15	
Firearms	6	18	13	18	17	9	10	8	2		101
Male	4	14	11	11	15	9	9	8	2	83	
Female	2	4	2	7	2	0	1	0	0	18	
Hanging	3	1	14	9	6	1	2	0	0		36
Male	2	1	9	8	5	1	2	0	0	28	
Female	1	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0		6
Male	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	1	2	1	5	1	0	1	0	0		11
Male	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	
Female	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	7	
Other	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		4
Male	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>217</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>		

**Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods and Gender of the Decedent**

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	6	2	8
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	1	2
Carbon Monoxide	9	2	11
Drowning	3	1	4
Drugs/poisons	19	15	34
Firearms	83	18	101
Hanging	28	8	36
Incised wound(s)/stab	5	1	6
Jumping	4	7	11
Other	3	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>217</b>
Percent	74%	26%	

**Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods and Marital Status of the Decedent**

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	MARITAL STATUS					Sub Total	Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Unknown		
Asphyxia	3	1	3	1	0		8
<i>Male</i>	3	1	2	0	0	6	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	1	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	2	0	0		2
<i>Male</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	1	3	6	1	0		11
<i>Male</i>	0	3	5	1	0	9	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Drowning	2	1	1	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	2	0	1	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	15	7	9	2	1		34
<i>Male</i>	10	4	4	0	1	19	
<i>Female</i>	5	3	5	2	0	15	
Firearms	35	40	19	6	1		101
<i>Male</i>	29	32	15	6	1	83	
<i>Female</i>	6	8	4	0	0	18	
Hanging	17	13	5	1	0		36
<i>Male</i>	16	7	4	1	0	28	
<i>Female</i>	1	6	1	0	0	8	
Incised wound(s)/stab	5	1	0	0	0		6
<i>Male</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5	
<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Jumping	5	3	3	0	0		11
<i>Male</i>	2	2	0	0	0	4	
<i>Female</i>	3	1	3	0	0	7	
Other	4	0	0	0	0		4
<i>Male</i>	3	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>217</b>
Percent	40%	32%	22%	5%	1%		

**Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent**

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	3	5	0	8
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	1	1	2
Carbon Monoxide	6	5	0	11
Drowning	1	3	0	4
Drugs/poisons	11	21	2	34
Firearms	27	66	8	101
Hanging	11	23	2	36
Incised wound(s)/stab	1	5	0	6
Jumping	2	8	1	11
Other	1	3	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>217</b>
Percent	29%	65%	6%	